

Message Text

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67

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 AEC-11 SS-20 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3956

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, IN, CA

SUBJECT: HAVE THERE BEEN INDIAN PLUTONIUM EXPORTS?

REF: NEW DELHI 9100

1. WE BELIEVE WE CAN THROW SOME LIGHT ON QUESTION SUBJECT REFTEL
AS FOLLOWS:

A. MARCH 1, 1968, THEN MINISTER JEAN LUC-PEPIN ANNOUNCED AVAIL-
ABILITY FOR SALE OF PLUTONIUM WHICH HAD BEEN PRODUCED IN NPD AND
DOUGLAS POINT PROTOTYPE REACTORS. SHORTLY THEREAFTER FRENCH
PURCHASED APPROXIMATELY 1.5 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF THIS PLUTONIUM
FOR THEIR RHAPSODY FAST REACTOR PROGRAM.

B. CURIOUSLY ENOUGH THIS CONVEYED TO INDIANS SAFEGUARDS RIGHTS
OVER THIS PLUTONIUM IN FRANCE. RIGHTS WERE ACQUIRED BY VIRTUE
OF CANADIAN-INDIAN SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT ON RAJASTHAN. WHEN THE
INDIANS HAD OBJECTED TO PERMITTING THE CANADIANS TO HAVE SAFEGUARDS
RIGHTS IN INDIA WHEN THE INDIANS HAD NONE IN CANADA, THE CANADIANS
RESOLVED THE ISSUE AND PUT THE INDIANS ON THE SPOT BY OFFERING
THEM SAFEGUARDS RIGHTS OVER THE DOUGLAS POINT REACTOR.

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C. TO THE BEST OF THE CANADIANS' KNOWLEDGE, THE INDIANS DID, IN

FACT, DO SOME BILATERAL SAFEGUARDS IMPLEMENTATION IN FRANCE.
THIS COULD EASILY HAVE GIVEN RISE TO FALSE IMPRESSION THAT INDIANS
WERE SAFEGUARDING INDIAN PRODUCED PLUTONIUM IN FRANCE.

2. A REVIEW OF AECL NUCLEAR MATERIALS MANAGEMENT RECORDS
AND AECB SAFEGUARDS CONTROL RECORDS SHOWS NO EVIDENCE THAT A
DIRECT SALE TO FRANCE WAS EVER MADE OF INDIAN PLUTONIUM
WHICH THE CANADIANS HAD ANY SAFEGUARDS RIGHTS OVER.

3. THERE IS, OF COURSE, A POSSIBILITY THAT THE FRENCH MAY
HAVE INDEPENDENTLY PURCHASED FROM INDIA DIRECTLY SOME PLUTONIUM
PRODUCED THERE. IF THEY DID, HOWEVER, CANADIANS CATEGORICALLY
DENY KNOWLEDGE OF OR ANY INVOLVEMENT IN SUCH A SALE.
PORTER

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